



3rd -5th

June 29-30, 2013

DATE

Abraham

LESSON TITLE

Genesis 12-21

WHERE TO FIND IT

Kids will identify what this story teaches us about God and his promises

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. *If you **all** have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.*

tips

If small groups wrap up early, don't send kids off to play. Instead, gather as a whole group and re-watch today's video. Kids—and hopefully some parents, too—will get a review of the story!

check-in/out

Encourage parents to ask kids what the words/images they drew!

large group heads up

Believing God keeps his promises can be difficult, especially considering how many promises are broken daily by humans. Today, kids will hear a story of God keeping his promise to Abraham. Hopefully, it will lay a foundation to help them believe in the trustworthiness of God's character.



instructions

Goal: to help kids discover what this story teaches us about God and his promises

Why? The fact that God always fulfills his promises—even when we have to wait or it seems humanly impossible—is an important part of his character.

Tip: After kids identify some of God's promises, facilitate discussion that will allow them to consider how believing those promises would change their daily lives.

small group

CONNECT

1. Share your name and one word to describe the best part of your week (if you've already connected before large group, move directly to question #2).
2. Share your favorite part of today's story—or one part that surprised you.
3. Have you ever broken a promise or had someone break a promise they made to you? What does that feel like?

REVIEW/DIG DEEPER

Let's talk about what we learned about God's promises:

1. Give each kid a piece of **paper**. Tell them to draw a line down the center.
2. One side, write "Our promises"; on the other write "God's promises." Ask kids to brainstorm what's true about our promises verses God's promises. Then share!
 - a. *Consider: (1) We don't always keep our promises / God does*
 - b. *(2) We can't do impossible things / God can*
 - c. *(3) We can talk about when we intend to fulfill our promises / sometimes God wants us to wait and trust him, etc.*
3. Why did Abraham and Sarah think God *might* not keep his promise? (they were getting old; had to wait)
4. Why did God keep his promise to Abraham and Sarah? (He ALWAYS keeps his promises and he CAN keep every promise.)
5. Why was this promise so special? (The Rescuer would come through this family, which allows all of us to choose to be a part of God's family!)

ACTIVITY/DISCUSSION: CELEBRATE GOD'S PROMISES

The best part is God has made us some pretty cool promises. Let's read some of them together.

(Continue on the next page)

- Hold up the **verse cards**.
 - Read one out loud, or ask a kid to read them.
 - On the back of their papers, ask them to draw a word or picture to describe God's promise.
 - Share
 - Repeat for each verse (kids may need more paper)
 - Ask kids if they know of any of God's other promises—add those
 - **Collect verse cards (other services will re-use them)**
- Spread all the words/pictures across the table/floor in front of you. Spend a little time discussing. Here are some questions to get you started:
 - Which promise makes you most excited? Why?
 - Is there one promise that's hard for you to believe? Why?
 - Is there a promise that you've never heard before?
 - Any promise that surprises you?
 - How would believing God's promises change your week?

***Pray with the kids and thank God that he always does what he says he will do!**

...Extra time? Play a game of telephone or get some paper and play Hangman or Pictionary. Stay in small groups until kids' parents arrive.

LARGE group



special notes

Today's script asks you to share 2 personal stories. Keep them light and kid-friendly, but be real. Spend some time praying about what God wants you to share with the kids. And remember, they *love* hearing about you!

presenter tips

Check in with the leaders in the room on a regular basis. They have the best perspective on how large group is going. Is it too long? ...Too short? ...Too quiet? Just ask. They'll let you know!

script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. Today, we're going to talk about how God began building his special family, the one he would send the rescuer through! But first, we're going to talk about promises.

INTRO: MAKING PROMISES

(Show promise picture.) Most of us have made a promise to somebody. Maybe our friend told us a secret and we promised not to tell. Maybe we promised our parents or grandparents that we'd clean our room or do some chore around the house. Maybe we even did what's in the picture—made a pinky promise to show we were REALLY serious. Raise your hand if you've ever made a promise (let kids respond).

Now, think about ONE promise you've made—one you can share—and **turn and tell a friend next to you what it is**. (Let kids turn and tell a friend). Now think about just that one promise you made. Did you keep that promise? (Let kids raise hands.) Did any of you forget or not keep that promise? (Let kids respond—raise your own hand; *insert a story of a light, kid-friendly promise you made that you didn't keep.*)

Sometimes, we make promises that we don't keep. Sometimes, people promise us things...but they don't do what they say they're going to do—what they promised. Don't raise your hand, but think about whether or not that's ever happened to you.

I know it's happened to me (*insert a personal story of kid-friendly promise that was made to you but not kept*). It didn't feel very good.



script continued

INTRO TO TODAY'S STORY AND REVIEW

So we know that sometimes *people* don't keep their promises. They let us down. But today, we're going to hear a part of God's Story that's about GOD making a promise. And we're going to try to figure out what this story shows us about God and *his* promises.

Remember how God was really sad about all the wrong things that were happening in the world? He didn't like seeing people hurt each other and themselves. After all, they were made in his own image! And he was sad that nobody wanted to follow him. After all, they were created to be close to him!

So God sent a flood to wipe out all the wrong things in the world, but he rescued the ONE guy who followed him—Noah!—and Noah's whole family. And after he rescued Noah, God planned a Great Rescue that would be for every single one of us.

GOD MAKES A PROMISE

Well, God decided he was going to send the Rescuer through a family. He was going to prepare his family for many, many years so that *everyone* would know when the Rescuer came—and believe that he was the one sent from God.

The first two people in God's family were a man named Abraham and his wife, Sarah. And the first thing God did was make Abraham and Sarah a promise. God promised that they would have a HUGE family. Kids and grandkids and great grandkids and great, great, great, grandkids and great, great, great, great, great, great, grandkids...you get the idea! And one day, the rescuer would be one of those kids, born into Abraham and Sarah's family!

There was just one teensy, tiny little problem: *Abraham and Sarah didn't have any kids.*

So God promised to give Abraham and Sarah more kids than the dust of the earth. (**Hold up the handful of sand.**) That's kind of like counting sand. It's really hard to count each and every little piece of sand. Does somebody want to try? (Let a kid try). ...Pretty hard, huh?

(**Show picture of starry sky.**) God also promised to give Abraham and Sarah more kids than the stars in the sky. It's really hard to count the number of stars in the sky! Let's all try! (Guide the kids in counting, then give up and stop.)

ABRAHAM AND SARAH WAIT

Whew! The point is God promised Abraham he would have a LOT of kids while he had *none*. And Abraham believed God would do what he said he would do. So he immediately started following God and obeying him. But you know what? More than twenty years later, Abraham and Sarah STILL didn't have any kids.

They began to worry that God wasn't going to keep his promise. They were getting old and gray! They were as old as most *grandparents*...and they still didn't have any kids!



script continued

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE

But remember, God's promises aren't like our promises. Sometimes, people don't keep their promises. But let's see what happened to Abraham and Sarah after GOD made them a promise. As you watch, see if you can figure out ONE thing this story shows us about God and his promises:

Video: God's Story / Abraham and Sarah

Wow, what an amazing story! So what do you think this story shows us about God and his promises? (Let kids say things like: 1. He ALWAYS keeps his promises. 2. We may have to wait for his promises, but he keeps them. 3. It might seem impossible that his promises will come true, but they will! *They may add other things. If they don't, **sum up the three statements above.** You don't have to go into tons of details, because kids will dig deeper during small group.*)

GOD'S PROMISES AREN'T LIKE OUR PROMISES

Yes, God's promises aren't like our promises. Since he is God and is in control of everything, he can fulfill ALL of his promises, even if they seem impossible. The great news is, even though people sometimes let us down by not keeping their promises, God ALWAYS keeps his promises!

Remember, God kept his promise to give Abraham kids. He also kept his promise to send the Rescuer, his own son, Jesus, so that EVERYBODY can be rescued and choose to be a part of God's family. And he's promised to one day re-create a perfect world for his whole family to live in forever—a world where we're never sick or sad, where nobody does wrong things, and where *everybody* keeps their promises.

WORSHIP

That's some great news! Let's sing about it together to thank God for always keeping his promises.

Song: Before I Go, I Stop

Song: Because You Love Me

PRAY

Ask somebody to come thank God for always keeping his promises.



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name



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PREP needs



small group supplies

Blank paper (at least 1 per kid)
Markers

Per small group:

- 1 set of verse cards—may be re-used across services (print one verse per

piece of cardstock per template in curriculum folder; print on brightly colored cardstock)

large group supplies

Small container of sand (enough to hold a handful)

a/v needs

1. Image: pinky promise (jpeg in curriculum folder)
2. Image: starry night sky (jpeg in curriculum folder)
3. Video: God's Story: Abraham and Sarah
4. Song: Before I Go, I Stop
5. Song: Because You Love Me

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about God's promises.
How did God keep the promise he made to Abraham and Sarah?

parent page

God's promises aren't like our promises. He *always* does what he says he will do—and he has the power to fulfill promises that are humanly impossible. Ask your kid to tell you about His promise to Abraham and Sarah. You can also read this story together in Genesis 12-21 in the Bible or watch a video about it on CrossroadsKidsClub.net.